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Mr. Krisada Chinavicharana, Director-general of the Fiscal Policy Office, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Finance stated that “The Thai regional economy in February 2017 continually expanded. This increase was led by the South, the East and Bangkok and vicinities. Private consumption, especially durable goods consumption, remained strong. Likewise, private investment showed an improving sign in many regions. In addition, there was a continual growth in tourism and agriculture sectors. Meanwhile, internal stability remained favorable.” **The details were summarized as follows:**

The Southern Region: The economy showed a significant expansion, especially in private consumption, tourism and agriculture. Real VAT collection expanded by 3.1 percent per year. Furthermore, the durable goods consumption strongly rose as the number of motorcycle registration grew by 23.1 percent per year, resulting from an expansion in most provinces, due to increasing in agricultural product price. While, there was a positive sign in private investment on equipment and machinery as the number of pick-up registration moderately expanded by 11.1 percent per year. On the supply side, the number of visitors increased on average by 2.7 percent per year as those of Thai and foreign visitors rose by 4.7 and 1.5 percent per year, respectively. Meanwhile, internal stability remained favorable as inflation rate was stable at 1.8 percent in February and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) was 1.5 percent of the Southern region’s workforce.

The Eastern Region: The economy continually grew, particularly in private consumption, agriculture and tourism. Real VAT collection surged by 20.0 percent per year. Moreover, the durable goods consumption continued to expand as the number of motorcycle registration substantially rose by 19.1 percent per year as result of increasing in all provinces. Whereas, private investment showed a recovery, especially in equipment and machinery section, as the number of truck registration and the number of permit for factory operation soared by 27.4 and 144.5 percent per year, respectively. On the supply-side, tourism sector was strong as the

number of visitors and income from visitors continually increased by 11.9 and 13.2 percent per year, respectively. These were supported by an expansion of Thai and foreign visitors. In addition, higher farm income was a result of increases in both agricultural product and price. Meanwhile, internal stability remained in a good pace as inflation rate in February was stable at 1.8 percent and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) was 0.8 percent of the Eastern region's workforce.

Bangkok and vicinities: The economy showed a recovery, particularly in private consumption and investment. Real VAT collection slightly expanded by 0.6 percent per year. In addition, the number of motorcycle registration contributed to noticeable expansion by 11.9 percent per year owing to increasing in all provinces. Similarly, private investment on equipment and machinery showed an improvement as the number of pick up and truck registrations grew by 1.2 and 17.0 percent per year, respectively. Moreover, the number of permit for factory operation substantially ascent by 32.2 percent per year owing to higher level of factory investment in Samut Prakan and Nakhon Pathom. Likewise, government investment continued to ascent by 30.5 percent per year. On the supply-side, tourism sector indicated an expansion as the number of Thai visitors continually increased by 0.6 percent per year. Meanwhile, internal stability was favorable. Inflation rate of February and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) were stable at 1.3 percent and 1.0 percent of the Bangkok and vicinities workforce, respectively.

The Central Region: The economy indicated a growing at satisfactory rate, specifically in private consumption, private investment and tourism. The figure of durable goods consumption showed a recovery as the number of motorcycle registration surged by 18.9 percent per year, as all provinces recorded positive growth. While, private investment on equipment and machinery showed clear positive signs as the number of pick-up and truck registrations increased by 4.4 and 20.7 percent per year, respectively. On the supply side, the number of visitors and income from visitors continually expanded by 3.6 and 3.5 percent per year, respectively, driven by both Thai and foreign visitors. Meanwhile, internal stability continued to stay at desirable level as inflation rate of February and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) were stable at 1.4 percent and 1.7 percent of the Central region's workforce, respectively.

The Northeastern Region: The economy recovered, particularly in private investment and tourism. Real VAT collection slightly rose by 2.6 percent per year. Furthermore, the durable goods consumption showed an improvement as the number of motorcycle registration grew by 13.1 percent per year, supported by an expansion in most provinces. Whereas, government investment is a key factor to drive the region. This was reflected by an increase of 5.6 percent per year in capital expenditure. However, private investment was stable. On the supply side, tourism sector remained strong as the number of visitors continually increased for 9 months. The number of Thai and foreign visitors considerably rose by 9.0 and 22.1 percent per year, respectively. Moreover, income from visitors also increased by 10.2 percent per year. Meanwhile, internal stability remained favorable. Inflation rate was stable at 1.6 percent in February and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) was 1.3 percent of the Northeastern region's workforce.

The Northern Region: The economy showed an improvement, driven by private consumption, government investment and agriculture. Private consumption on durable goods was pronounced as the number of motorcycle registration indicated an accelerate growth by 13.1 percent per year. This was supported by the increase in most provinces such as Chiang Rai, Mae

Hong Son and Kamphaeng Phet. Moreover, private investment showed a positive sign as the number of truck registration strongly expanded by 9.3 percent per year. Likewise, government investment was still a main driver of the Northern economy as capital expenditure strongly inclined by 12.7 percent per year. On the supply-side, agriculture sector showed an improvement due to farming product such as paddy, corn, and sugarcane. However, tourism remained steady. Meanwhile, internal stability remained desirable as inflation rate was stable at 1.8 percent in February and unemployment rate (as of January 2017) was 0.9 percent of the Northern region's workforce.

The Western Region: The economy improved, private consumption and tourism were the key drivers. Private consumption on durable goods grew as the number of motorcycle registration went up by 10.4 percent per year due to rising in most provinces such as Petchaburi, Kanchanaburi and Ratchaburi. These increases were supported by agricultural product price. Nonetheless, private investment indicators were quite steady. At the same time, the supply-side indicators remained strong. The number of visitors contributed to grow by 17.5 percent per year as the number of Thai visitors ascent by 20.2 percent per year. Furthermore, income from visitors indicated an accelerated growth by 36.1 percent per year, resulting from higher income level of Thai and foreign visitors (rose by 44.8 and 11.6 percent per year, respectively.) Meanwhile, internal stability remained satisfactory level as inflation rate was stable at 2.0 percent in February and Unemployment rate (as of January 2017) was 0.4 percent of the Western region's workforce.